

and the platform for which we fought in 1912. And at present any attempt at action on my part which could be construed, and which certainly would be construed, into the belief that I was still aspiring to some leadership in the movement would, I am convinced, do real harm. It has been wisely said that while martyrdom is often right for the individual, what society needs is victory. It was eminently proper that Leonidas should die at Thermopylae, but the usefulness of Thermopylae depended upon its being followed by the victory of Themistocles at Salamis. It was evidently proper that Bowie and Travis and Crockett should die at the Alamo, but the usefulness of the Alamo depended upon its being followed by Houston's victory at San Jacinto.

"When it is evident that a leader's day is past, the one service he can render is to step aside and leave the ground clear for the development of a successor. It seems to me that such is the case now as regards myself. 'Heartily know that the half gods go when the gods arise.' There are certain things I can continue to say to small audiences in my writings, and where I think that these will be helpful and not hurtful, I shall continue to say them; but to make speeches on political subjects and to try to take the lead in questions of party politics would be, for the time being, at least, mischievous and not useful."

November 8,  
1914.

*To Hiram W. Johnson, Sacramento, California:* "East of Indiana there is no State in which the

Progressive party  
remains in condition even to affect the balance  
of power  
between the two old parties. It would be  
foolish for me  
or my friends to blink the fact that as things  
are now my  
advocacy of a man or a policy is in all  
probability a detri-  
ment and not an aid. The people as a whole  
are heartily  
tired of me and of my views; and while from  
time to time  
in my writings, where I think it can do some  
good, at least  
for the future, I shall state these views, it  
would be a great  
mistake for me to be making speeches on  
political subjects  
or taking any part in politics at the moment."